



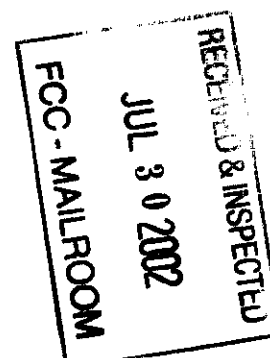
Jim Compton
Seattle City Councilmember

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July 17, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189



RE: Qwest application to provide long-distance service in Washington State

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to approve Qwest Communications' application to provide long-distance service in Washington State.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) has completed a lengthy and exhaustive process to determine if Qwest has fulfilled its statutory and regulatory requirements to open their local networks to competition prior to receiving FCC approval to re-enter the long-distance market. It's my understanding that the WUTC has concluded that all requirements of the "14-point checklist" have been successfully met, and that the WUTC is recommending to the FCC that Qwest's application for Washington be approved. I commend the WUTC for the thorough and rigorous process; the WUTC has been a strong advocate of competition, and if they are satisfied that openness to competition has been achieved, I support their recommendation.

Seattle's interest in this process is simple - economic development. We constantly seek opportunities to enhance economic growth in our high tech and diverse City, and we believe that access to advanced telecommunications services and technology is a critical component to our success. Businesses looking to locate or expand in our area must always consider the degree of access to advanced telecom services as a part of their decision-making process, and the City has supported the growth of competition and increased service options.

Please give Washington an additional tool to help achieve our goal to grow our economy, provide new jobs, and sustain our rural and urban quality of life. Allowing Qwest to re-enter the long-distance market in Washington, now that they have met the openness requirements, should result in more choices and lower prices.

I urge you to expeditiously approve Qwest's application to offer long-distance service in Washington.

Respectfully,

Jim Compton

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